



The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) recognizes, especially given the lessons of the 2005 hurricane season, that mitigation of potential and real storm impacts, as well as, increasing coastal community resilience is as important as ever. The DMR continues to implement measures that will decrease our vulnerability to coastal hazards and prepare ourselves to respond to future events. The DMR's Office of Coastal Management and Planning (OCMP), since 1999, has been promoting the benefits of Smart Growth not only for quality of life issues, but also, for the advantages garnered regarding reduction of impact from storm events and related hazards. Continued implementation of geospatial technology and development and dissemination of tools such as the Comprehensive Resource Management Programs' (CRMP) Potential Land Development Suitability Model allow for long and short term land use planning and guiding development from potentially high risk areas. Other products like the Stormwater Toolbox and educational offering such as the annual Coastal Development Strategies conference raise awareness of coastal issues. The overarching collaborative effort of CRMP promulgates networking, partnerships, and the general instrument of information and data exchange. DMR is actively participating in Federal programs specifically aimed at coastal resiliency and decreased vulnerability such as USACE MSCIP with an agency emphasis on coastal habitat restoration and acquisition and US Coast Guard's Digital Area Contingency Plan with an emphasis on response to storm events to minimize impacts to coastal resources.

DMR is administering the Mineral Management Service's Coastal Impact Assistance Program whereby special interest is focused on allocation of funds that not only mitigate for impacts from oil and gas extraction, but also serve to increase resiliency and decrease vulnerability. Examples might include land acquisition, education, and specific programs that implement practices recommended through various programs such as the Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal, and NFIP. Additionally, the MDMR's Coastal Preserves program is continuing its role in the acquisition of critical coastal habitat for preservation and restoration, which will serve to reduce development in high hazard areas and maintain these habitats in a manner to continue natural functions.